

# <sup>†</sup>The Mirrour of Cruelty:

B E I N G

A True and Just Account of two most  
Notorious and Barbarous

## MURTHERS,

Lately perpetrated by the Bloody hands of in-  
humane and Butcherly Villains.

One being Committed at

*East-Hanvil, in the County of Essex,*

On Fryday the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 1683. upon the body of a Wid-  
dow, once living the Town afore said, who was mur-  
dered by one that she had lent money to, and was  
Stabbed under the left Pap, had her Skull  
broke, and her Throat cut, by this  
Monster in Nature.

The other Wicked and Bloody piece of

Barbarity was Acted at *Barnet*, 10 miles from *London*, by two  
Luxurious Villains, now lying in Goal at *St. Albans*, in the  
County of *Hertford*, who after they had shamefully and wicked-  
ly (committed each of them) a Rape upon a Shop-keepers  
Wife in the Town aforementioned, most sadly and without  
pitty, cut the Throat of the said Woman, and are now confined  
to receive the Reward due to such, as shall without shame or  
pitty, be Guilty of the like Villany.

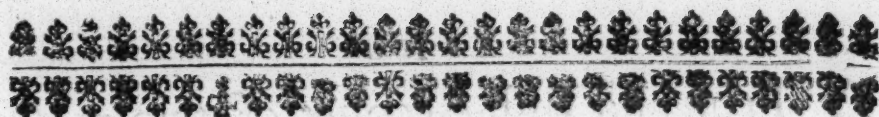
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22. June. 1683.



T H E

## MIRROUR

O F

## CRUELTY.

**N**O Time, nor Age, ever afforded more Patterns of Cruelty than this, wherein our Ears and Senses are Arrested with Admiration of Inhumanity, so frequently acted, and bloodily perpetrated upon our Fellow Creatures, whereof these two following Examples give us occasion to declare to the World, the wretchedness of some Criminals. But to go forward with my intended matter, it so happened, That on *Friday*, the 25<sup>th</sup>. of *May*, 1683. A certain Widdow-Woman had occasion to go to *Chelmsford*, the chief Town in the above named County of *Essex*, to receive 50. *l*. that was her due, the said Mony was accordingly paid unto her; but whether out of fear of being Robbed, or whether out of respect to some other person that might want at that time, she parted with 45 *l*. of her Mony, and so repaired homeward with 5 *l*. in her Pocket, or thereabouts. But so it fell out,

that when she came near home, she met with a Man, to whom she was so kind, as to lend 10. s. to formerly ; and finding him slack in his payment, she, as in reason she might, demanded her Mony of him? to whom he gave a short Answer, replying, *That he would come and pay her by and by.* She poor Soul was satisfied with this Answer, not dreading that the Devil would put it in his mind, to requite her kindness with Butchery ; but from him she parted, still making homeward, till at last she remembered herself of some Friends that had promised to come from *London* to visit her in the Holly-days. In order thereunto she went to a *Farmer's House*, not far from her own, and desired them to save for her some of their best Curds, and some Cream the next Morning, which they kindly promised, and carefully did, so home this poor Creature went peaceably, as she thought to take her rest, but her unlooked for Doom was drawing on. For this unnatural Villain, to whom she had been so kind, as to lend him Mony in his want, was by the assistance of the Devil, a hatching and contriving her overthrow, and with a bloody mind, full fraughted with Hellish Fury, away he comes to the House, and how he got in, we cannot yet Inform you ; but by some means or other in he got, and after he had Cruelly knocked her down, and broke her Scull, he Hellishly cut her Throat, and then he Barbarously wounded her under the Left Pap, which without doubt, was sufficient to put a Period to her Life. Unknown to any was this horrid Murther committed, and the next thing he had to do, was to find out some way to convey this Dead Body to some private place of Burial, which at last he determined should be in a piece of Corn Ground which he Rented, so putting her into a Sack, he got her thither : he likewise got a Sythe, and cut down the Grass that was growing about a Pond in



the middle of the same Ground ; then did he dig a Grave, and put her therein, Sack and all, covering the Grave with the Grass he had cut. The next day, the Neighbours that had preserved for her what she desired, wondred much why she came not for it, knowing that she was a very honest Woman, and commonly very punctual to her word: But when they had waited long for her coming, and she came not, they began to imagine she might not be well, and so might lie some-what long in the Morning, than ordinary ; but fearing that what she had spoke for might spoil, after a many long looks for her, they either sent, or went to see, and finding the Door open, perceived some Blood lie about the Room, which could do no less than astonish the Beholder, and ran back, and declared what a sad Spectacle there was to be seen, presently fearing what indeed was too true ; Whereupon a Constable was called, the Neighbour-hood raised, and a diligent search made, for to find out (if they could) what was become of this Murthered Body. But notwithstanding all their diligence, it could not be for some time ; yet nevertheless, to avoid suspicion, this Bloody Wretch himself went along upon the search, little mistrusted, or suspected ; and when they could not by any means find her in, or about her Dwelling House, or Ground, they proceeded farther to search other Grounds or Ponds, near unto that place, but yet they could not be so successful in their business, as to make a discovery. At length they came to this Ground where she lay Buryed, and perceiving a Track, or Foot-path through the standing Corn, which caused them in some measure to mistrust, but the more, because the Man that Rented the Ground, was not (seemingly) willing to go over into his own Ground to search, as he was free to go into others, but said he would go to a Neighbours House, near thereunto, while they

they searched. At last they came to the Ponds side, which (as well as they could) they searched, but in vain, for there was none to be found therein; but they found by the side of the Pond, a Sythe, which was known to be his that Rented the Ground, and took notice that the Grass about the Pond was cut not long before: so that not only the Grave where the Body was Buryed was covered with Grass, but also quite round the Pond, which freed them from doubt and suspicion of any Grave being there: but by accident, one of the company chancing to get upon the Grave, the Earth sunk in, being loose, and almost frightened the Man; which when they perceived, they pulled away the Grass, and plainly discovered the shape of the Grave; and as some say, immediately sent away a Messenger to the House where the person went that Rented the Ground, to borrow a Spade, to dig up the Grave withal: which he perceiving, being guilty, straight way took his flight; In the mean time they continued digging, till they had found the Murthered Body there, layed in a Sack, mortified and misused, as is aforementioned. Whereupon a *Hue and Cry* was made after this Bloody Wretch, and in the space of Twelve Miles overtook him, but by reason the Constable knew him not, he had the opportunity of escaping for that time, but was seized and secured, about Eight Miles further off, and now lies in the Goal at *Chelmsford*, till the next Assizes; where it may be believed, the Law will pass upon him, as in such Cases is usual.

The next thing I shall acquaint you with is, of another Horrid, and Cruel Transaction, that happened near to *Barnet*, not much different from the time aforementioned in the other Example, in manner and form following, and as Report Informs us. There was a certain Shop-keepers Wife that lived in the Town of *Barnet*, who usually, and customarily

customarily would walk every Evening over two or three Fields to refresh her self, of which custom, there was two Persons, or Young-men, whose Fancies, filled with Malignancy, led them headlong to their own destruction. These two Villains knowing that this Woman, who was Reported not only to be handsome, but vertuous ; these two Bloody Villains holding a Consultation with the Devil, determined to go one Evening to the place most remote from the Town of her Walk, and there to set upon her, and by force, to compel her to their lascivious humours, which not long after they did. For one Night it happened, that the Husband of this Woman, being either drowzy, or some other way indisposed, was minded to go to Bed early, and desired her to do so too: but she, according to her accustomed use, was minded to take a little Air, so her poor Husband, little fearing what would follow, wished her to go, but not to stay too late; which she promised not to do. Away poor Soul she went, void of the Sense of any approaching fear, to recreate her self as she frequently did, when behold these Machivillains followed her, and almost at the farther end of her Walk over-took her, and passed her; but whither there passed any Discourse between them, as they passed, I cannot Assert: but by and by these Wicked Wretches returned, and meeting her, they laid hold upon her, and violently too, insomuch that they threw her down, and one Villain held her, while the other committed his Rape upon her, who without any question, made what resistance possibly she could, to prevent their Wicked Design, but being over-powered, after one had effected his damnable Design, the other, by his assistance, impudently did the same, so that both of them became guilty of a Rape, and put themselves under the Penalty of the Law. But now the Devil, to aggravate to their Wickedness,



edness, suggested to one of them, that the only way to prevent both their shame and punishment, was to rid her of her Life, that she might not discover their Villainy ; the other, though as much concerned in the Rape, as he which would have touched his—without Murther, yet he seemed not to condescend to, or comply with his co-Partner, in this Bloody Design, but endeavoured to obviate and frustrate this his Inhumane motion, adding, That they should lie under more dangerous Circumstances by Murther, than by Rape ; to which the other answered, It was all one, for if it were discovered what they had done, they should unavoidably dye for, and the most expedient way to prevent the discovery, was to dis-inable her, by — for the same, and so, through these Diabolical Insinuations, was he wrought to act, and assist in this second part of this Tragical Story, which without the least pity, was bloodily affected. So both Parties being agreed, the work was soon done, and her Throat most barbarously cut, through which passage Life soon found way ; then they took her Dead Body and threw it into a Hedge. The next thing they had to do, was to seek out for their own security, but horror being before them, and danger behind them, and judgment upon the wing to overtake them, they were in a Labyrinth of fears and troubles ; but the tender Man, with the earnest and long looked for return of his (then slaughtered) Wife, began to be possessed with fear and doubt, inso-much that he got up again, attired himself, and with a Lanthorn and Candle went to look after his poor Wife, having nothing to wait upon him but his Dog, who coming near the place, soon scented the dead body, and running to the Hedge, fell a Barking, which his Master minding, he went that way, where when he came, he, to his great and unspeakable sorrow, beheld this unwelcome Object.

(7)

Object. But what amazement and Consternation seized him, I leave to the Ingenious censure of all loving Husbands and Wives: But to go forward, one of these two bloody Agents fearing to be justly punished for his unjust proceedings, made a motion to his Father to go to Sea; his Father having found him very Untoward formerly, (as most people imagine unsensible of this his Cruelty) was minded to get a Voyage for him, while in the mean time a discovery was made, and he Apprehended, and now is in *Hertford* Goal; but the other young Blood-sucker was not yet found, but God will not suffer such Cruelties to lye long hid, and now we are certainly informed that he is gone to his Partner in Debauchery, to become his Partner in suffering, and participate of his Misery proportionably to his Crime. The Lord grant that these terrible Examples may be a Warning to all, that they may not be guilty of such prodigious Cruelties, and Bloody Crimes.

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FINIS.

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